



Match Report

Opponent: At Britannia Royal Naval College

Date: 24 Sept 05

Match: Navy 13 BRNC 7

Saturday brought the end of formalities in Dartmouth with the kick off of the Centenary Match between the Britannia Royal Naval College and their guests, the United States Naval Academy. The boys from Annapolis kicked off to start and were soon in the lead. A strong Gold Shirt drive off of a line out left second-class scrum half Graham Cleveland to touch the ball down for a 5 nil score barely three minutes in; no conversion. The next 20 minutes saw the Americans mostly in the Dartmouth end, but the home team in Blue and White were steadily getting their feet under themselves. The Americans continued to threaten as senior wing Lane Drummond took a pass from Cleveland off a scrum and raced down the left wing only to be caught ten meters from try. As quickly as the Gold Shirts had moved, Dartmouth returned the favor. In the 25th minute, Dartmouth Center Dave “Chuck” Barry sprang a strong 20 meter run to within three meters of try. The Midshipmen escaped though by stealing the ensuing 5 meter scrum and kicking for touch. The Midshipmen would threaten once more before halftime as they took the first phase off of a scrum

to the right, and then quickly flipped the field for the second phase. Second-class fly half Rob Miller skipped to second-class center Michael Humara who popped to looping second-class center Kevin Peterson before the ball was spun outside to the wing. Drummond would again penetrate into the Dartmouth 22, this time popping the ball to senior fullback Eric McElvenny. Though McElvenny was tackled, Dartmouth was whistled for a penalty which Annapolis used to secure a line out at 5 meters. The Blue and White defense was again firm and held Cleveland up in try to ensure the half ended with the score USNA 5 BRNC 0.

Dartmouth kicked to open the second and the Americans were quickly back on their heels. Only three and a half minutes in, Cleveland was shown a yellow card and sin binned 10 minutes for striking a Dartmouth player. With only 14 players now on the pitch, the Gold Shirt defense was soon broken through. The try was scored and converted by Dartmouth’s big number 12 Barry as they swung the ball all the way to right flank in the second phase off of 10 meter penalty (USNA 5 BRNC 7). With the game now picking

up and moving between the 40's, Annapolis would regain the lead just four and a half minutes later. Humara burst through the Dartmouth midfield and fed senior wing James Markel who sped past the Blue and White fullback for 10-7 led; no conversion. The two sides continued moving back and forth with alternating possessions; the British cheering, strong Dartmouth rucking and the Americans hollering after some strong hits. In the 68th minute Annapolis looked certain to extend their lead but Dartmouth was lucky to knock Markel out of bounds at the 22; a call not well received by the American staff and reserves. Right off the line out Barry again broke through this time making it to midfield before he was dragged down. The Gold Shirts looked to extend their lead in the 71st minute but the Miller penalty attempt from 40 meters failed only to be knocked on during an attempted catch giving the Gold Shirts a 5 meter scrum. Dartmouth mounted a stern defense and stole the ball out of ruck on the second phase enabling them to kick for touch. This time they benefited from a dropped catch and came out of it with a line out just past their own 22. With only five minutes to go Dartmouth went down a man as Barry was carded and sent to the sin bin for persistent infringement. Miller would convert the ensuing penalty from 24 meters leaving only 5 minutes for Dartmouth to overcome a 13-7 deficit. However, Dartmouth would not see much of the ball in the remaining time and only a suspicious

knock on call negated another Markel try in the final minute. The final whistle drew celebrations from the Gold Shirted USNA side and warm applause from all in attendance. It was a well played match from two close sides with action moving up and down the pitch. Any centenary would have been proud to call this match their own.

Scoring Stats:

Trys

Cleveland
Markel

Penalties

Miller

Conversions made

None

Conversions missed

Miller x2

Cards

Cleveland

Man of the Match

Humara

~Midn 1/C M. Quin Reporting